

Solar senior homes to be renovated

Heating system to undergo major retrofitting

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The defunct 30-year-old solar heating system at the Grand Living Senior Homes in Granby is getting a major upgrade from American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds through the Colorado Governor's Energy Office.

"We're all pretty excited," said Liz McIntyre, community energy coordinator for the Grand County area. McIntyre has been working with the Grand County Business Economic Development Association, or BEDA, to attract energy dollars to the community since 2009. The senior homes in Granby are a major installment of those funds in Grand County.

The Governor's Energy Office supplied \$91,000 of federal pass-through dollars, and the local Sprout Foundation granted another \$80,000 for the project.

The Grand County Housing Authority

is putting in about \$13,000 or more to make the crawl space and attic at the facility more energy efficient by adding a barrier and insulation.

Residents of the 24-unit senior housing facility pay according to income with subsidies from the USDA Rural Development.

Because the boiler at the facility was outdated and lacked efficiency, project leaders, through the help of a Governor's Energy Office consultant, opted to replace it for the buildings' heat supply. Meanwhile, the old solar heating system is planned to be replaced with new technology in solar domestic hot water systems.

The new solar technology will be smaller in each of the buildings, McIntyre said, with new panels, pumps, controllers and storage. The solar portion of the project should provide 80 to 100 percent of the energy needed to heat water in buildings, she said.

From the two new smart boilers being installed at the senior housing property, a 30 to 55 percent savings in gas is expected.

In addition to these functions, with help from the weatherization program through Energy Outreach of Colorado, the overall project includes ventilation duct work, upgrades to lighting to make it more energy efficient, installment of low-flow showerheads and improvements to fan coil units to make air cleaner for residents.

Installations and construction work on the project is slated to start this month. Through a competitive bidding process with no local preference policy due to the use of ARRA money, McIntyre said, Custom Solar of Boulder was selected and About Plumbing and Heating of Silverthorne.

Both companies "had the best response," McIntyre said, adding "It was disappointing it wasn't a local firm. There are certainly competent contractors up here who install solar hot water systems."

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Trestle Bike Park won't open 'til 18th

SKY-HI NEWS STAFF REPORT

Winter Park Resort decided earlier this week to delay opening the Trestle Bike Park by one weekend.

The new opening date is scheduled for June 18.

The bike park crew, bike patrol and Mother Nature will work diligently over the next 10 days to clear trails below Five-Points, according to Winter Park communications manager Mistalynn Lee.

The primary reason for the delay is mud, not snow, Lee said.

The bike park staff want to give the course more time to dry out, "to protect the integrity of the trails," she said.

In the meantime, the resort's base activities are still set to open on June 11 and the Epic Single Track Hill Climb will take place as scheduled.

RMRT opens new season with 'Beauty and the Beast'

To commemorate the Grand Opening of the new Rocky Mountain Repertory Theatre, RMRT opens the 2011 Summer Season with Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*. Based on the popular animated film, the stage version of *Beauty and the Beast* tells the story of the winsome Belle and her ferocious captor, who must

unravel the bonds of his own heart to overcome a curse.

RMRT alum and award-winning actress Elizabeth Lanza returns to Grand Lake from Chicago to play the role of Belle, along with an elite acting company comprised of professionals from all across the country. "I am astounded at how incredible this year's

company is," stated Artistic Director Michael Querio. "Not only are they brilliant performers, but they are wonderful people as well. Having this group here to launch our grand opening season is going to make this summer really special."

In addition to the accomplished cast, the enhancements in the new Rocky Mountain

Repertory Theatre also promise to elevate this classic tale to a spectacular new level.

Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* premiers with an opening night party on Friday, June 10, at 8 p.m., and runs until Aug. 20. Those with opening night tickets will be treated with drinks and hors d'oeuvres prior to the show, and

the doors open at 7 p.m.

Tickets are on sale now for the rest of the season, and can be purchased in person at the new Rocky Mountain Repertory Theatre, or by phone at 970-627-3421. Additional information, seating charts, and performance calendars can be found at www.rockymountainrep.com.